

Town of Arlington
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Tuesday, July 22, 2003 7:20 PM

Committee members present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones (arrived at 8:20), Lt. Jim McHugh, Mike Rademacher, John Sanchez, Scott Smith, Ed Starr, David Walkinshaw

Critical crosswalk signs

David Walkinshaw reported on the new fluorescent yellow green (FYG) signs at Pleasant and Kensington. Although they are very well received by the residents, there is a tree that obstructs the view of the sign for motorists traveling towards Route 2. He also noted that the pedestrian warning signs were completely gone from Pleasant Street. Costs for the new signs are as follows:

\$56.25 sign

\$18.00 arrow

\$27.50 stripe for the pole (not being used at this time)

\$11.41 post

\$ 8.00 anchor

Total cost is \$93.66 without the stripe, \$121.16 with the stripe. Two signs are used at each location, leading to a total cost (exclusive of labor) of about \$190 per location.

Jim McHugh requested that TAC provide funds for signs at 5 other priority locations:

- Summer/Victoria
- Park Avenue / Appleton
- River / University
- Medford / Parallel / Maynard
- Jason / Brantwood

They are all crosswalks on busy streets that are near schools, playgrounds, or playing fields. He noted that River / University will be losing a school crossing guard. The committee voted unanimously to allocate \$1,000 for this effort. This will bring the total number of sets of signs to eight: the five mentioned above, Pleasant/Kensington, Summer/Oak Hill, plus one spare.

Crosswalk painting

John Sanchez noted that crosswalk painting is going more slowly than desired. The Town is finding it difficult to get the contractor to complete the work in a timely manner. The current contractor also has some financial issues. For next year, John plans to issue a three year contract, which should give the Town more leverage to obtain better performance.

At this point (7:45 PM) John Sanchez departed for another meeting.

Jason Street

David Walkinshaw received a call from Mrs. McKersie. Issues include brush at Spring Street and Route 2, and the Jason / Brantwood crosswalk. DPW has done some trimming on the island. However, other brush that is obstructing the view may either be on Mass Highway or MWRA property. The crosswalk paint at Jason and Brantwood has all but disappeared, and the bollard was missing at the time of the call.

Mass. Ave. / Route 60 Intersection

Ed Starr spoke with Barry Faulker. The Redevelopment Board sponsored some work on this intersection a number of years ago. However, lack of funding prevented action. He will obtain a copy of the report.

Right Turn on Red (RTOR)

Jim McHugh reported that there was a request from acting Town Manager Nancy Galkowski to investigate whether some No Turn on Red signs could be removed. We agreed to take this on and make recommendations to the Town,

Elisabeth Carr-Jones and John Sanchez arrived after this discussion (8:20 PM)

Town Day

Scott Smith reported that the application for a table at Town Day has been made. The major question is: do we have time by Town Day to launch Pace Car? Much work needs to be done, in terms of materials and publicity. The consensus was that unless such a major effort could be made very quickly, we should not launch Pace Car at Town Day, but rather use the Town Day table for education and to gauge reaction to the Pace Car concept. Ideas for the Town Day table include the following:

- Educational handouts (Scott Smith presented some sample materials from Iowa State)
- Mass. Ave Corridor

Scott Smith also suggested that if a survey related to transportation is to be done, that efforts be coordinated between the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee, Walking in Arlington and TAC.

Jason / Spring / Route 2 (continued)

We agreed that DPW will address the vegetation issues at Concord Turnpike and Spring. Problem is that the sight-line is blocked for entry onto Turnpike from Spring.

John Sanchez reported that the changes at Jason / Spring should be done sometime in August.

Pedestrian Warning Signs (continued)

The issue is that the PWS disappear frequently, and therefore are a high maintenance, high lifecycle cost item. John Sanchez noted that the unwritten DPW policy is to put them back only twice. Possible actions that could be taken:

- An "adopt-a-bollard" program. David Walkinshaw noted that the signs that are removed from the street at night by local residents seem to last longer. Scott Smith noted that nighttime visibility of a sign in the middle of a busy street is often limited, because the motorist is also dealing with headlight glare. Under this program, the neighbors would be responsible for moving the sign to the side of the street (or removing it entirely) at night and putting it back during the day. David agreed to approach Ed Cuoco (of Pleasant Street) with this idea for the Maple/Pleasant bollard. The bollard was currently missing, and DPW agreed to replace it to support this program.
- Use of simple posts that are anchored in the road. These would be the posts from Recycled Products, or could be the same as the bollards that have recently been installed on the bikeway. Ed Starr will obtain more information from Recycled Products. Scott

Smith suggested that this should be done on a trial basis (preferably on a busy street) to ensure that the anchors don't lead to road damage in the winter.

Alternative Transportation Day

Scott Smith spoke with Fred Ryan, John Serson and Kevin Greeley about the idea for an alternative transportation day, to be held in May 2004. All were supportive. Scott asked TAC to consider possible roles for TAC in such a day.

Administrative Items

The minutes of 6/26 were approved unanimously.

Town Transportation News

John Sanchez reported that the Environmental Notification Form (related to the parkland near the Recreation Center) has been completed for the Summer Street project. The current plan is to put out bids in September 2003, with construction occurring in 2004 – 2005.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Handouts:

Agenda – from Ed Starr

Crosswalk sign costs and proposed locations – from Jim McHugh

List of Iowa State educational transportation flyers – from Scott Smith

Minutes from June 26, 2003 – from Elisabeth Carr-Jones